

EPI Update for Friday, November 5, 2010

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Cholera outbreak in Haiti**
- **What is Environmental Public Health Tracking?**
- **2010 Fall EPI Update available as streaming video**
- **Link to the CDC vaccine storage and handling page**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Cholera outbreak in Haiti

An outbreak of cholera is ongoing in Haiti. As of October 27, 2010, a total of 4,722 cholera cases and 303 deaths have been reported. An international public health response is underway with an emphasis on 1) rehydration of ill patients and 2) water treatment, sanitation and safe food preparation.

Cholera is reportable to public health in all U.S. states and territories and no cases of cholera in travelers from Haiti to the United States have been reported to CDC. Health care providers should immediately report known or suspected cases of cholera to public health officials.

For prevention and treatment guidance for travelers to and from Haiti, visit wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/cholera-travelers-returning-from-haiti.aspx. For more information about the outbreak in Haiti, visit www.cdc.gov/haiticholera.

What is Environmental Public Health Tracking?

The environmental health division has received a four year grant from CDC to provide environmental, exposure, and health outcomes surveillance data; called the Environmental Public Health Tracking network. It will collect and provide environmental health data to health professionals, legislators, advocacy groups, researchers and the public to facilitate better decision making, evaluation, and policy development.

Over the next four years, IDPH's environmental health division will work with other state and local agencies to build and implement a web-based tracking network, with initial focus on:

- Hospitalizations for asthma, carbon monoxide poisoning, and myocardial infarction

- Cancers
- Birth defects
- Vital statistics (such as birth and death records)
- Drinking water quality/contamination
- Air quality/contamination
- Childhood blood lead levels

For more information on the national tracking system, visit www.cdc.gov/ephttracking or visit the IDPH Bureau of Environmental Health Services website at www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/epht.asp.

2010 Fall EPI Update available as streaming video

2010 Fall EPI Update sessions are now available via streaming video. To access the video, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/cade.asp. Topics discussed include: Case, Cluster, and Outbreak Investigations from Beginning to End; 2009 H1N1 Lessons Learned; Emerging Diseases and New Vaccines; and Hot topics. The videos will be available online for 90 days. DVD recordings of the 2010 Fall EPI Update are available by writing to scameron@idph.state.ia.us.

Link to the CDC vaccine storage and handling page

Visit this link to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's for information on storage and handling of vaccines, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/storage/default.htm. There are many good resources for providers on this site.

The video "How to Protect your Vaccine Supply," the link to which we provided to you with last week (but didn't work for everyone), is on this site. Originally created in 2003, the video provides many excellent teaching points and is worth viewing. One detail in the video, however, no longer applies: LAIV live attenuated influenza vaccine is now a refrigerator product, not a frozen product as featured in the video. Immediately upon receipt, LAIV should be placed in the refrigerator.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy and happy week enjoying the beautiful fall weather!

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